

BOOK NOTICES

DUNMIRE, WILLIAM W. and GAIL D. TIERNEY. 1997. **Wild Plants and Native Peoples of the Four Corners.** (ISBN 0-89013-319-0, pbk). Museum of New Mexico Press, P.O. Box 2087, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504. \$22.50. 312 pp.

This handsome book is both a traveler's companion and ready reference work. The authors have thoughtfully compiled and beautifully presented a wealth of information on the cultural and natural heritage of the Four Corners region of the American Southwest. The first half of the book examines the land, prehistoric and extant cultures, and plant uses by native peoples living in southwestern Colorado, northwestern New Mexico, southeastern Utah, and northeastern Arizona. The second half of this book is devoted to individually illustrated (with excellent color photographs) ethnobotanical descriptions of fifty taxa organized according to lifeform—trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs. An annotated table of 515 useful plant taxa appears after the species' ethnobotanical descriptions. This table provides a marvelous synthesis of culture-specific plant uses summarizing information from a long list of historic and recent literature. The bibliography is extensive and the index detailed. If you plan to travel in the Southwest or live there and plan to explore the region's natural and cultural riches, buy this book to help you do it.—*Bruce Benz.*

BOARD ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL. 1996. **Lost Crops of Africa. Vol. 1. Grains.** (0-309-04990-3, pbk). National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. \$24.95. 383 pp.

USAID has done yet another service by sponsoring BOSTID's compilation of information on useful African biodiversity. This volume provides an extremely useful treatment of six important African grains—African Rice, Finger Millet, Fonio, Pearl Millet, Sorghum and Tef, six short treatments discussing very locally distributed cultivated species and numerous other wild grains gathered by Africans for food. Taxonomic and evolutionary relationships of cultivated grains and wild relatives is provided and comparative nutritional value of each grain is compared to maize, the grain that has come to dominate a majority of cultivated acreage in Africa. If you teach a course in Economic Botany and don't mention these grains, do yourself and your students a favor by incorporating the information provided in this book.—*Bruce Benz.*